Course objectives:

Writing a substantial research paper gives students an opportunity to explore a topic of interest from start to finish, to think critically about the current law, and to consider future developments. Writing at this level is inherently challenging and time-consuming. In the process though, students improve their research and writing skills, as well as their understanding of the law. This two-credit seminar is designed to support second-year students who are writing a comment for the Washington Law Review. The seminar focuses on topic selection, research, and drafting. This is a graded course with multiple assignments. The final grade will be recorded after Winter Quarter.

Course Structure and Grading:

The seminar will include lectures, discussion, small group exercises, and individual conferences to help students develop their comment. Students will be evaluated on the basis of eight assignments, one presentation, class attendance and participation, and the first full draft of the comment. Assignments 1-5 during the Autumn Quarter will be evaluated on elements such as timely submission, completeness, and a good faith effort to make progress. Winter assignments 6-10 will be evaluated on a three-tier basis: Exceeds Expectations; Meets Expectations; Needs Improvement.

Graded assignments include:

1. Two Topics (due October 1) 5 pts
2. Final Topic - Initial Thesis (due October 15) 5 pts
3. Research Plan (due October 22) 5 pts
4. Research Sources (due November 19) 5 pts
5. Comment Outline (due December 3) 5 pts
6. Background – First Draft (due January 14) 5 pts
7. Analysis/Discussion – First Draft (due February 11) 5 pts
8. Summary of Comment (due February 18) 5 pts
9. Presentation of Comment (due February 25 & March 4) 5 pts
10. First Full Draft of Comment (due April 8) 50 pts
11. Participation & Attendance (due April 8) 5 pts

Total possible points = 100

Grading note:

Seminar grading is not subject to the mandatory curve. Successful students will turn in assignments on time, demonstrate superior academic performance, and actively participate. Please note that I anticipate that final seminar grades will range from B+ to A.

Assignments note:

All assignments must be posted (please include your name!) to Canvas by 5pm date due and sent to 3L mentor also. Please single space all submissions, include page numbers, and use Times New Roman 12pt typeface with 1 inch margins on all sides. For a tutorial on how to upload an assignment to Canvas, please follow this guide. Course website (Canvas) available at https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/850047.
Fall Quarter 2013

September 24, 2013: NO CLASS

October 1, 2013:
Basic Legal Research Tools/Note-taking Tips
Visiting professor: Mary Whisner, Reference Librarian

Assignments Due:
#1 Two Topics (5 pts) Submit the assignment on Canvas.

October 8, 2013: NO CLASS

Assignments Due:
Reading: Scholarly Writing, 2d, Chapter 2, pp. 19-46.
Meet with 3L mentor and faculty

October 15, 2013: CLASS IN ROOM 127
Research Process

Assignments Due:
#2 Final Topic – Initial Thesis (5 pts) Submit the assignment on Canvas.

October 22, 2013: NO CLASS

Assignments Due:
#3 Research Plan (5 pts) Submit the assignment on Canvas.

October 25 – November 18, 2013: NO CLASS

Assignments Due:
Meet regularly with 3L mentor

November 19, 2013:
Research and Writing Tips

Assignments Due:
#4 Research Sources (5 pts) Submit the assignment on Canvas.

November 26, 2013: NO CLASS – Be Thankful!

December 3, 2013: NO CLASS

Assignments Due:
Reading: Scholarly Writing 2d, Chapter 4, pp.75-99.
December 4-8, 2013: NO CLASS
Assignments Due:
Write! And meet with 3L mentor before finals.

**Winter Quarter 2014**

January 7, 2014:
Overview of Winter Quarter Goals

January 14, 2014: NO CLASS
Assignments Due:
#6 Background - First Draft (5 pts)  Submit the assignment on Canvas.

January 15-February 10, 2014: NO CLASS
Assignments Due:
Write and meet with 3L mentor

February 11, 2014: NO CLASS
Assignments Due:
#7 Analysis/Discussion – First Draft (5 pts)

February 18, 2014: NO CLASS
Assignments Due:
#8 Summary of Comment (5 pts)  Submit the assignment on Canvas.

February 25 and March 4, 2014 – EXTENDED CLASS HOURS 6:00-8:00pm:
Student Presentations
Assignments Due:
#9 Presentation of Comment (5 pts)  Submit the assignment on Canvas.

**Spring Quarter 2014**

April 8, 2014: NO CLASS
Assignments Due:
#10 First Full Draft of Comment (50 pts)  Submit the assignment on Canvas.
ACADEMIC CONDUCT

The following paragraphs discuss academic integrity, copyright and privacy concerns governing student conduct in the Law School and the University of Washington. They apply to all assignments and communications in this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The essence of academic life revolves around respect not only for the ideas of others, but also their rights to those ideas and their promulgation. It is therefore essential that all of us engaged in the life of the mind take the utmost care that the ideas and expressions of ideas of other people always be appropriately handled, and, where necessary, cited. For writing assignments, when ideas or materials of others are used, they must be cited. The format is not that important as long as it is consistent, the source material can be located and the citation can be verified. In any situation, if you have a question, please feel free to ask the instructor or teaching assistant. Such attention to ideas and acknowledgment of their sources is central not only to academic life, but life in general.

Please acquaint yourself with the University of Washington's resources on academic honesty.

Copyright

All of the expressions of ideas in this class that are fixed in any tangible medium such as digital and physical documents are protected by copyright law as embodied in title 17 of the United States Code. These expressions include the work product of both: (1) your student colleagues (e.g., any assignments published here in the course environment or statements committed to text in a discussion forum); and, (2) your instructors (e.g., the syllabus, assignments, reading lists, and lectures). Within the constraints of "fair use," you may download or copy slides, recordings or notes for your personal intellectual use in support of your education here in the Law School. All of these examples are copyrighted expressions, and fair use by you does not include further distribution by any means of copying, performance or presentation beyond the circle of your student colleagues in this class. If you have any questions regarding whether a use to which you wish to put one of these expressions violates the creator's copyright interests, please feel free to ask the instructor for guidance.

Privacy

To support an academic environment of rigorous discussion and open expression of personal thoughts and feelings, we, as members of the academic community, must be committed to the inviolate right of privacy of our student and instructor colleagues. As a result, we must forego sharing personally identifiable information about any member of our community including information about the ideas they express, their families, life styles and their political and social affiliations. If you have any questions regarding whether a disclosure you wish to make regarding anyone in this course or in the Law School community violates that person's privacy interests, please feel free to ask the instructor for guidance.

Knowing violations of these principles of academic conduct, privacy, or copyright may result in University disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

Students with Disabilities

To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services: 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924 (V/TTY). If you have a letter from DSS indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to the instructor so you can discuss the accommodations you might need in the class.

Academic accommodations due to disability will not be made unless the student has a letter from DSS specifying the type and nature of accommodations needed.

Student Code of Conduct

Good student conduct is important for maintaining a healthy course environment. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Washington's Student Code of Conduct.